(b) whether the private companies have established infrastructure to store and handle this own imported oil;

(c) whether the private sector find it financially viable to establish infrastructure for their limited use; and

(d) what is the viability of this concession for the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) According to the current Exim Policy, Private and Joint Sector refineries can import crude oil freely without an import licence for actual use in their own refineries. Import of Furnace Oil has also been decanalised.

Refineries are set-up on techno-economic considerations and import facilities etc. are usually part of the Refinery Projects.

LPG Gas Agency in Sujanpur Teera

423. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number with their names of the Panchayats under Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh which are served by the LPG gas agency situated in Sujanpur Teera of Hamirpur district;

(b) the number of such villages with their names which are situated at a distance of 500 to 2000 yards from the main road or mortorable road and the details of the gas connections provided in these villages;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake the work of home delivery through the agency in these villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There are 26 Gram Panchayats in the district of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, where LPG is served by LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira in the district of Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).

(b) There are 75 villages in 26 Gram Panchayats of Kangra district, which are served by the LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira. A total of 2976 custgomcrs in the 75 villages are being served by the LPG distributor at Sujanpur Tira, district Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh).

(c) and (d) The cost for providing home delivery in such villages which are thinly populated, scattered in different directions and situated far off from the main distributor's point, is too prohibitive for distributors. Passing of cost for providing home delivery on customers by way of additional cooliage charges will discourage customers from use of LPG. As such, home delivery of LPG refills in the various villages of Kangra district by LPG distgributor situated at Sujanpur Tira will not be economically viable.

Tapti Gas to Pipavav Gas Based Power Project

424. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made a commitment to allocate Tapti Gas to Pipavav Gas Based Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commitment has been i fulfilled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to provide the gas to the gas based Pipavav Power Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) It was decided in 1989 to allocate is from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti Fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take the gas from Gandhar Fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently keeping in view the fact that the investment decisions to develop Mid & South Tapti Fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take the gas from Mid & South Tapti Fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system. The Government of Gujarat have been advised accordingly.

Purchase of Petroleum Products from Private Rcfcneries

425. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation have decided to purchase petroleum products from the private refineries;

(b) if so, the names of refineries with whom the agreement has been reached, if any; and

(c) the details of the agreement arrived at with these refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Subject to Government approval, IOC has a proposal to enter into a marketing agreement with Reliance Petroleum Ltd. and Essar Oil Ltd. for five controlled products viz. LPG, MS, HSD, SKO and ATF during the period of transition of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism i.e., upto 31.3.2002 and also beyond transition period.

Setting up of New Refineries in Public and Private Sector

426. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM' AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new refineries both in the public and private sector;

(b) if so, the places at which the new refineries are to be set up by the public and private sector; and

(c) the financial implications involved and the capacity of each refinery and the time by which these refineries are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The details of new refineries projects planned to be set up State-wise, during 9th Plan period under Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) in Public Sector/Joint Sector/ Private Sector alongwith the estimated investment, crude processing capacity and anticipated completion / production targets, are given in the enclosed statement *(see below)*